

## THE WESLEYAN ALUMNAE

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Vol. IX

No. 2

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# Wesleyan Alumnae

May, 1933



## COMMENCEMENT CALENDAR

MAY 26 THROUGH 29

Friday, May 26:

8:30 P. M. Dramatic Recital, Wesleyan Conservatory Auditorium.

Saturday, May 27:

10:00 A. M. Annual Meeting of the National Alumnae Association, Student Activities Building.  
Memorial Service.  
Plans for New Wesleyan Scholarships.  
Induction of Class of 1933.

12:30 P. M. Bass Memorial Service, Student Activities Building.  
Reunion Classes.

5:00 P. M. Alumnae Garden Party, Wesleyan College, Rivoli.

8:30 P. M. Musical Soiree and Graduation Exercises of Conservatory.

Sunday, May 28:

8:30 A. M. Alumnae Morning Watch, Miss Mary Culler White, Leader.

11:30 A. M. Baccalaureate Sermon in Gymnasium, Rivoli, by Rev. John Brandon Peters, D. D., Pastor Druid Hills Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

8:30 P. M. Sacred Concert, Wesleyan Conservatory Auditorium.

Monday, May 29.

11:00 A. M. Literary Address—Robert Lincoln Kelly, Ph. B., Ph.M., LL.D., of New York, Secretary of the Association of American Colleges.

Conferring of Degrees, College of Liberal Arts.

Address to the Graduates—President Dice Robins Anderson, A.M., Ph.D., LL.D.



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## The Bass Memorial

Commencement, 1933, will see the realization of a purpose which has been close to the hearts of Wesleyan alumnae for many years, the establishing of a permanent memorial to Dr. William Capers Bass, for 35 years connected with Wesleyan as professor and as president.

In November, 1894, the first mention of this purpose was made. Alumnae Association passed this resolution at their meeting:

"Resolved: That with the aid of the friends of education throughout the South, we, the pupils and alumnae of Wesleyan Female College, will erect a suitable memorial to Dr. Bass in acknowledgment of his distinguished services in the cause of higher education of women."

Subsequent meetings of the Alumnae Association reported amounts raised for this memorial, until in 1900 a substantial sum was in hand. Just at this time the college passed through a critical period of its history, and the trustees sent an urgent plea for aid to the alumnae. Realizing that the welfare of the college itself would have been always the first consideration of this great and self-sacrificing man, the alumnae directed the use of the money temporarily for this emergency.

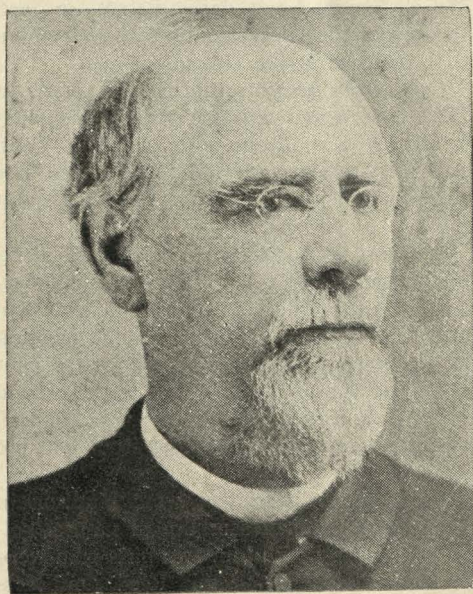
Through the years that have followed, as the college has grown and as the Alumnae Association has increased its numbers, adding among others, many daughters and grand-daughters of Dr. Bass' loved "girls," the memory of this president of Wesleyan has lived, and the desire to honor him has remained.

Thousands will be delighted to hear that the trustees of Wesleyan, at the request of the alumnae, have established a chair of sci-

ence bearing his name, thus honoring Dr. Bass and perpetuating his memory throughout the coming generations.

### Chair of Chemistry and Geology

Since Dr. Bass was for 15 years before his election to the presidency of Wesleyan a teacher of science at the college, it is particularly appropriate that the memorial to him should be a chair of chemistry and geology. Professor Joseph T. Derry, teacher of Latin in Dr. Bass' time, said: "Dr. Bass always felt a peculiar interest in this department. One of his last recommendations to the board was that something be done as



WILLIAM CAPERS BASS, D.D.



soon as practicable for the proper equipment of the scientific department at Wesleyan."

The alumnae will be glad, also, that the memorial to Dr. Bass is a living, growing thing, a professorship in which a teacher, like himself, is carrying on the work of the education of womanhood. Dean Leon P. Smith, head of this department, is the nephew of Dr. Cosby W. Smith, loved professor of Dr. Bass' faculty and his personal friend.

A beautiful bronze tablet is to be placed in the Science Hall proclaiming the fact that the Bass Memorial Chair of Chemistry and Geology honors this former president of the college, and students of Wesleyan for years to come will be reminded of his life and work.

There are three other memorial chairs at Wesleyan: the DuPont Guerry Chair of History and Economics, the Cobb Alumnae Chair of English Literature, and the Lovick Pierce Chair of Mathematics and Astronomy.

#### The Center of the College Life

Dr. Bass was the patriarch of the college clan, the final word in every argument, the kindly but firm voice of all authority. This indefatigable man held all the reins in his own hands. Of course, living was not as complex in those days, but even so, it was no small job to direct all financial matters, grant all permissions, hear all complaints, decide all questions of whatever nature, handle all funds, teach daily classes—in fact, to keep in touch personally with everything that went on in the college.

One of the servants told a later president. "Dr. Bass done with his two hands what it takes you and your wife, and Mrs. Cobb and that secretary girl all to do now!" His students remember delightful incidents about him:

He used to stand in the front hall under the "arcade" and call "Mail!" in a thunderous voice every day, and when the girls had come flying from all parts of the building he would read the name on each letter himself, commenting on it. "This is the second letter from this young man since Sunday; you don't want to be hearing from him too often!"

He came to Wesleyan from Madison in 1859 to take a professorship of natural sciences, bringing with him two girls who were to enter the college, Bessie Reed, now Mrs. Napier, and her sister. The college was crowded at the time, so Dr. Bass directed

that the room which had been given him for an office should be fitted up as a bedroom for the young ladies, and he himself did without an office.

He had an abrupt, sudden way of speaking that made him seem severe, but not one of his "girls" was deceived, and all knew him to be the kindest and most fatherly of men. One little girl had been told by her father to "enter sophomore" at Wesleyan, and this she told Dr. Bass in a timid voice on her first day at college.

"You're too little!" he cried in a deep voice, and then, seeing her dismay, added more gently, "Well, all right, try it. But if you miss your lessons I will put you back in freshman."

#### Unselfish Devotion to Wesleyan

The college was, in those days, leased to the president, and he, after paying the running expenses, salaries, etc., and the amount of the lease, was entitled to all the funds that remained. It is easy to see how a less unselfish man could have turned this to his own gain. But Dr. Bass was a man of the highest integrity, and he seems to have had little regard for money and no desire to enrich himself. No matter what call was made upon his liberality he often responded beyond his means. No one can tell the amount of his gifts to worthy students in scholarships, but it is estimated that sometimes as many as forty pupils at a time, or one-fourth of the student body, were receiving all or part of their education at his expense.

#### The Faculty Tribute to Dr. Bass

One of the highest tributes that could have been paid to Dr. Bass is a brief note, which is carefully preserved by his daughter, Minnie (Bass) Burden, in her scrap-book. It was written in 1893, at a time of general financial stress, and was signed by every member of the faculty:

"Realizing that the income of the college has probably been much reduced by causes beyond human control and for which you are in no way responsible; and having the utmost confidence in your justice, integrity, and unselfish regard for the interests of all associated with you, we, the undersigned members of the Wesleyan faculty, desire to express our appreciation of the sacrifices you have so often made in the interest of the college, and to assure you of our willingness, in the present emergency, to bear our share



of the burden and loss, by consenting to accept such a pro rata reduction of our salaries as in your judgment may be just and necessary."

Signed:

Jos. T. Derry	E. F. Andrews
J. H. Newman	Iva M. Blaydes
A. C. Cobb	Nettie Haley
Mrs. Clifford E. Williams	Anita R. Bibbins
C. O. Townsend	C. W. Shinholzer
M. E. Mason	Alice M. Greer
V. Czurda	Ria W. Burks.

It was during Dr. Bass' administration that the first large gift was received for Wesleyan from George I. Seney, New York banker. Some of this money was used to remodel the whole of Main Building.

In addition to being president of Wesleyan Dr. Bass "rode the circuit" to all the little churches around Macon. Several of them were founded by him, among them the little one that stands beside the highway passing new Wesleyan and bears his name, Bass Chapel.

#### His Last Commencement, 1894

When he had literally worn himself out in the service of Wesleyan, Dr. Bass, at Commencement in 1894, resigned as president to spend his last days with his daughter, Minnie (Bass) Burden, in Macon, but it was not until his body lay in state in the Grand Parlor of the college that he relaxed his effort to see that Wesleyan was run as it should be. If the bell was not rung at the proper time, he sent a servant to tell them to ring it. Dr. Rowe, his successor, visited him every day to ask his advice and to give him news of the college.

When, on November 14, 1894, he died in his sixty-third year, newspapers all over the state carried tributes and editorials commemorating his consecration to the cause of woman's education and his vital influence over two generations of "the flower of Southern womanhood." One editorial said of him:

"Dr. Bass was, first of all, a good man and devoted to doing good to others; but he had, besides goodness, the genius of common sense, allied with great energy, without which he could not have accomplished the great work for which he will be remembered. He was that rare combination, an earnest preacher, a good teacher, and an excellent business man. He occupied the place where he was needed most, and the results of his labors will live even longer than the memory of him. Men who have done so much and all of it so well as Dr. Bass can afford to die."

#### Plan for a Memorial

On the day after his funeral, Mr. Calder B. Willingham of Macon proposed a memorial to Dr. Bass, a chapel or hall—he was uncertain just what would be most suitable. Professor Joseph T. Derry endorsed Mr. Willingham's idea, as did the alumnae at their meeting that year. And the newspapers, in speaking of the memorial, said:

"Few men have lived who better deserved a memorial. He was not a great and brilliant man in the ordinary sense of those terms, but nature gave him a strong and vigorous mind and his merit lies in having devoted all the resources of his intellect to the services of his fellow-men. A memorial to him will remind men that a man not gifted beyond the measure of many others, by single-minded devotion, by faithfulness to high ideals, by sacrificing himself, made his life a wonderfully valuable one for his country."

Dr. Bass' daughter, Minnie, now Mrs. R. F. Burden, lived most of her childhood and girlhood at Wesleyan, graduated with second honor in 1874, was married in the college parlors on September 9, 1880. Three grandchildren of Dr. Bass live in Macon, Octavia Burden, now Mrs. T. J. Stewart, Alice Burden, now Mrs. Roy Domingos, and Eugene Burden. Four children of Alice's, Dr. Bass' great grandchildren, are Roy, Jr., Alice, Ann Maria, and Richard.



# Nominee for Alumnae Trustee

LILA MAY CHAPMAN, A.B., 1890

The nominee for alumnae trustee to succeed Linda (Anderson) Lane, A.B., '92, who this year completes the unexpired term of Margie Burks, A.B., '05, is one of Wesleyan's most outstanding graduates in the field of library work.

Lila May Chapman, A.B., '90, has been for 23 years director of the Birmingham Public Library. Under her administration this library has grown miraculously from a small subscription library, with an average circulation of only eight books a day, to a large system including the main library, a handsome six story edifice, ten branches, and in addition a county service, with two book trucks which carry books to 110 stations.

Miss Chapman's records for last year show that there was a total circulation of 1,553,797 books for home reading. The library force has grown since her coming from two employees to 100.



LILA MAY CHAPMAN

She is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of University Women, chairman of the Lyceum Lecture Committee, and has served for nine years on the board of the Little Theatre in Birmingham.

As a girl Lila May Chapman won many scholastic honors. She was first honor graduate of high school and was salutatorian of her class at Wesleyan. She studied later at the Library in Atlanta, where she received a degree in library science.

Her first library experience was in a small library in Corsicana, Texas, where she worked two and a half years. In 1909 she made a visit to Birmingham to catalog the books in the library there, intending to remain for three months. She has been in Birmingham ever since.

Miss Chapman writes in a delightful and distinctive style, with an easy flow of words and a charming touch of humor. As historian of the national Phi Mu Fraternity, she has contributed a number of interesting articles to their magazine.

Her niece and namesake, Lila May Chapman, is following closely in her aunt's footsteps, graduating in the honor group of Miller High School in Macon this year. Another niece, Margaret Chapman, graduated from Wesleyan in 1928 with honor, and was for three years assistant librarian of the Wesleyan College Library.

Miss Chapman is an interested and active member of the Wesleyan Alumnae Club of Birmingham, and is intensely loyal to her Alma Mater. All who know her are enthusiastic in their praise of all she has accomplished, of her outstanding position in the library world today, of her fine spirit and co-operation in every worthwhile enterprise.

We offer as the candidate for Alumnae Trustee this outstanding daughter of Wesleyan, Lila May Chapman.



## TO THOSE WHO CAN

### WE ALL KNOW—

That Wesleyan's need for funds is acute.  
(The campaign leaders told us that in the fall)

And that the campaign fell far short of its goal.

### MANY ALUMNAE SAID—

"I can not help with the campaign, but I do hope to give something later."

### NOW IS THE TIME—

To send in your gift to the LOYALTY  
FUND (from \$1.00 to \$1,000,000 will be gratefully accepted!)



MAY 25 1936

## REUNION CLASSES

In addition to the regular reunion classes for 1933, all those classes that were in college during Dr. W. C. Bass' 35 years as professor and president (1859-1894) are invited to come back for Commencement to honor his memory.

The reunion classes are:

1927, 1928, 1929, 1930

1908, 1909, 1910, 1911

1889, 1890, 1891, 1892

1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868

Wesleyan invites the alumnae in these classes and the classes of Dr. Bass' years at Wesleyan who live outside of Macon to come back as her guests in the college dormitory. Macon alumnae are invited to be with their reunion classmates at all the college functions of Commencement and to have lunch in the college dining room on Saturday, May 27th.

Come back! Live over your college days during the Commencement week-end!

If you can come, send this slip to the Alumnae Office, Wesleyan College, Rivoli, Macon, Ga., so that we will reserve a room or a place in the dining room for you.

I WILL BE THERE COMMENCEMENT!

Name .....

Address .....

Maiden Name ..... Class.....

Arriving ..... (Date)..... (Hour)



SUPPLEMENT TO

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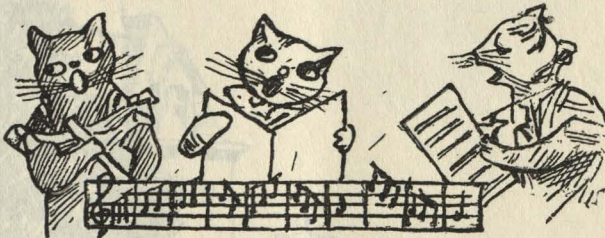
FILL OUT AND SEND TO THE ALUMNAE OFFICE, WESLEYAN  
COLLEGE BY RETURN MAIL

## BALLOT FOR ALUMNAE TRUSTEE

The executive committee of the Wesleyan Alumnae Association suggests only one name for Alumnae Trustee to succeed Linda (McKinney) Anderson, whose term expires this year.

LILA MAY CHAPMAN, A.B., '90

If you are in favor of Lila May Chapman as Alumnae Trustee, please return this slip (with your Loyalty Fund contribution, unless you have already contributed).



**HALLELUJAH !**

WHEN YOUR LETTER'S OPENED  
(With your Loyalty Fund contribution in it)  
WE'LL BEGIN TO SING!

Please return this slip with your contribution, giving your

Married Name -----

Address -----

Maiden Name ----- Class -----

[This drawing, taken from the "Zig Zag," Wesleyan annual for 1902, by May (Hazlehurst) Hammond]